

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 AID-20

SAB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /176 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7117

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJECT: NIMAIRI INTERVIEW WITH MICHELMORE

REF: KHARTOUM 1313

1. AP CAIRO OFFICE RAN MICHELMORE INTERVIEW WITH NIMAIRI ON EVENING OF JUNE 7, FOLLOWING MICHELMORE'S RETURN TO CAIRO. INTERVIEW SHOWS NIMAIRI AS BEING DETERMINED THAT BSO TERRORISTS RECEIVE STRONG PUNISHMENT: "THOSE EIGHT KILLED THREE INNOCENT PEOPLE. IT IS A CLEAR CRIME...THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL NOT ACCEPT A SOFT SENTENCE...AND IF THEY ARE ACQUITTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL ASK FOR A RETRIAL." NIMAIRI DENIED THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH PALESTINIANS TO RELEASE TERRORISTS BY JUNE 16, AND ADDED THAT SUDANESE JUSTICE IS NOT INFLUENCED BY FEAR OF POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN REPRISAL ATTACKS AGAINST SUDANESE AIRLINERS OR EMBASSIES. AP REPORTED THAT NIMAIRI SAID "NO ARAB GOVERNMENT HAS PRESSURED HIM TO STOP THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS BUT WARNED THAT HE WOULD RELEASE THE EIGHT IMMEDIATELY IF THE US OR OTHER GOVERNMENTS TRIED TO PUSH THE SUDANESE COURTS TOWARD A VERDICT."

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2. WE HAVE SEEN MICHELMORE, WHO HAS TOLD US THAT SHORTLY

BEFORE HE COULD FILE STORY HE WAS TELEPHONED BY MRS. ADNAN KASHOGGI, PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR NIMAIRI AND WIFE OF PROMINENT SAUDI ENTRAPRENUER, WHO ASKED HIM TO MAKE SEVERAL REVISIONS IN MICHELMORE'S STORY (WHICH SHE HAD SEEN) TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT WHAT NIMAIRI WANTED TO SAY. MOST OF THESE INVOLVED STATEMENTS WHICH NIMAIRI HAD MADE IMPLYING THAT HE COULD DICTATE COURSE OF TRIAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL. MICHELMORE SAID HE MODIFIED THESE AS REQUESTED. ON APPEARING AT SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, HE WAS TOLD THAT STORY COULD NOT BE FILED, SINCE IT WAS "INACCURATE". LATER ON AFTERNOON OF JUNE 6, MICHELMORE ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE MININFO OMAR AL-HAGG MUSA TO RELEASE STORY, WITHOUT SUCCESS. MUSA SAID THAT STORY AS IT THEN READ WAS NOT WHAT NIMAIRI HAD SAID, AND ADDED THAT IF IT WERE RELEASED GOS WOULD ISSUE IMMEDIATE DENIAL FROM LONDON.

3. MICHELMORE RETURNED TO HOTEL WHERE, VERY LATE IN EVENING, HE WAS TELEPHONED BY NIMAIRI PERSONALLY. MICHELMORE STATES THAT HE READ MODIFIED STORY TO NIMAIRY, WHO SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO IT; IF ANYTHING, HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT UNCONCERNED. NIMAIRI DID NOT ELABORATE ON INTERVIEW OR INDICATE WHAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BY COURT. HE EMPHASIZED POINT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MUST BE NO US PRESSURE ON SUDAN WHATSOEVER. RATHER THAN TRY AGAIN WITH SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, MICHELMORE TOOK FLIGHT TO CAIRO ON 7TH AND FILED FROM HERE.

4. MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED THIS MORNING BY AP CAIRO OFFICE FROM SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, WHICH SAID THAT IT HAD RECEIVED GARBLED TRANSMISSION OF MICHELMORE'S INTERVIEW AND WANTED A REPEAT.
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